

Message Text

SECRET

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64

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 IO-10 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /084 W

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R 272000Z MAY 75

FM AMEMWASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1319

INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

S E C R E T BUENOS AIRES 3625

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, AR, XM, OAS

SUBJECT: TOUR D'HORIZON WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS

1. AMBASSADOR HILL, ACCOMPANIED BY POLITICAL COUNSELOR, CALLED AT FOREIGN MINISTRY MAY 22 FOR FAREWELL CHAT WITH AMB. MOLINA SALF AND MIN. DIEGO MEDUS, HEAD OF NORTH AMERICAN DESK, PRIOR TO DEPARTURE FOR LEAVE. AMB. HILL OPENED CONVERSATION BY NOTING RECENT SPECULATION IN PRESS THAT MRS. PERON, ACCOMPANIED BY LOPEZ REGA, MAY SOON MAKE LATIN AMERICAN TOUR AND THEN GO ON TO US AND POSSIBLY EUROPE.

2. MOLINA SALAS CONFIRMED THAT MRS. PERON WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE TRAVELLING ABROAD IN NEXT MONTH OR TWO. SHE HAS COMMITMENTS TO VISIT NEIGHBORING STATES AND MAY ALSO VISIT PERU, COLOMBIA AND MEXICO. HE ADDED THAT FROM MEXICO THERE WAS STRONG POSSIBILITY SHE WOULD FLY ON TO UN AND THEN VISIT ONE OR TWO EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

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3. MOLINA SALAS REMARKED THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY DID NOT YET HAVE FIRM SCHEDULE OR INDICATION FROM PRESIDENT REGARDING ONE. HE ADDED THAT HE PERHAPS MORE INTERESTED THAN ANYONE ELSE IN GETTING PLANS NAILED DOWN SINCE HIS OWN SCHEDULE DEPENDED UPON HERS. GOM HAS GRANTED AGREEMENT AND HE, MOLINA SALAS, HAD PLANNED TO TAKE UP HIS ASSIGNMENT IN MEXICO IN JULY. IF MRS. PERON IS SOON TO VISIT MEXICO, HOWEVER, HE WILL HAVE TO TAKE UP POST FIRST PART OF JUNE.

4. BOTH MOLINA SALAS AND MEDUS INDICATED INFORMATION FROM MINISTRY WAS RECEIVING FROM US SUGGESTED NEGOTIATIONS FOR LOAN FROM PRIVATE US BANKS NOT GOING WELL. BOTH COMMENTED THAT GOMEZ MORALES' RESIGNATION AND REPLACEMENT BY CELESTINO RODRIGO WOULD DOUBTLESS HAVE FURTHER NEGATIVE IMPACT. MEDUS INDICATED THERE NO DOUBT AT ALL ABOUT GOMEZ MORALES QUITTING. HE HAS ALREADY RESIGNED AND RESIGNATION HAS BEEN ACCEPTED, TO BE EFFECTIVE SHORTLY.

5. AMB. HILL MENTIONED RUMORS THAT GOMEZ MORALES MAY GO AS AMBASSADOR TO US AFTER LEAVING ECONOMY MINISTRY. BOTH ARGENTINE DIPLOMATS BELIEVED THIS WAS UNLIKELY, AND INDICATED THAT PRESENT ARGENTINE AMB. IN BONN, RAFAEL M. VAZQUEZ, IS PROBABLE SUCCESSOR TO ORFILA. (COMMENT: GIVEN THAT GOMEZ MORALES IS RESIGNING BECAUSE OF DISAGREEMENTS WITH PRESENT ADMINISTRATION, IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT HE WOULD BE SENT TO WASHINGTON TO REPRESENT AND DEFEND THE POLICIES OF THAT ADMINISTRATION. ON THE OTHER HAND, DEF. MIN. SAVINO DID SPECULATE TO DCM DURING DINNER AT EMBASSY RESIDENCE THAT IF HE WERE TO BET, HE WOULD PLACE MONEY ON GOMEZ MORALES AS THE NEW AMB. TO US.)

6. AMB. MOLINA SALAS SHOWED GUESTS A CABLE FROM ARGENTINE EMBASSY IN BRAZIL REPORTING ON LONG ARTICLE IN CORREO BRASILIENSE WHICH STRONGLY CRITICIZED US POSITION IN SUPPORTING ARGENTINA FOR OAS SECRETARY GENERALSHIP AND WARNED OF FORMATION OF WASHINGTON-BUENOS AIRES AXIS WITH PURPOSE OF THWARTING NATURAL SECRET

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BRAZILIAN LEADERSHIP OF HEMISPHERE. ARGENTINES BELIEVED ARTICLE WAS OFFICIALLY INSPIRED AND REPRESENTED VIEWS OF ITAMARATI. MEDUS STATED THAT ARGENTINA OF COURSE RESENTED ATTITUDE TAKEN BY GOB IN OAS. GOB'S CLAIM THAT IT HAD NEVER SUPPORTED A MAJOR COUNTRY FOR SECRETARY GENERALSHIP WAS SIMPLY NOT TRUE. SOME YEARS BACK BRAZIL HAD INDEED VOTED FOR CARLOS MUNIZ, AN ARGENTINE, FOR SAME POST. (SEE SEPTTEL ON GOA-GOB

RELATIONS.)

MONTLLOR

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NNN

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